

U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The award can be earned by a girl aged fourteen through seventeen, or in grades ninth through twelfth.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than twenty thousand Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout Volunteer.

As a member of the Cahaba Girl Scout Council, Amy Page began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award on August 13, 1998. She completed her project, Dora's first Intertribal Pow-Wow and Education Day, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

A TRIBUTE TO A PRUDENTIAL  
SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD  
RECIPIENT

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 8, 1999*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and honor two outstanding Alaskan students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their community. Frank Cyra-Korsgaard and Esther Perman, both of Anchorage, have just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Cyra-Korsgaard is being recognized for his organization of "Run for the Books" which provided reading materials for homeless teens at Covenant House Alaska. Frank worked with Covenant House, identified adult mentors, solicited sponsors such as Barnes and Noble bookstore, promoted the event and organized the logistics. Eighty-two people ran in the event, including the Mayor of Anchorage and another 40 contributed, resulting in donations of more than 200 books and \$3,600. Frank has been invited to speak about community service at a national education conference and wants to host another run next year.

Ms. Perman is being recognized for her organization of replacing the "Rocket", a much

loved piece of equipment that had been removed from a local playground because it failed to meet safety regulations. Esther learned that the city was going to update the playground, but spend most of the allocated funds on a new parking lot. She was appalled and began to rally the support of other kids and adults. Esther conducted a survey of the city's young people and presented the results, along with the request for a new Rocket, at a city council meeting. Over the course of many meetings, Esther convinced the council to overturn its original plan and spend more money updating the playground and less on the parking lot. The council also agreed to work with the kids in town to design a new Rocket.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young citizens made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Cyra-Korsgaard and Ms. Perman are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

IN HONOR OF JOSE AND LEONOR  
RODRIGUEZ ON THEIR 69TH WED-  
DING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 8, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jose and Leonor Rodriguez on the 69th anniversary of their marriage.

Jose Domingo Rodriguez and Leonor Rojas Perez were born in Remedios, Las Villas, Cuba. After marrying as teenagers, they were anxious to establish themselves as business owners in their hometown. Through their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit the couple opened "La Fe" bar/cafe, which quickly became the most popular establishment in the area. Through his success, Mr. Rodriguez became a respected community leader.

In December, 1968, the couple left Cuba to live in New Jersey. Once here, they worked hard and made many sacrifices to ensure that their sons, Roberto and Rene, flourished in their new country. Despite having limited formal education, Jose and Leonor Rodriguez taught their children the importance of learning and achievement at school. Today, Roberto is a successful banker in Union City and Rene is an accomplished physician in Washington, D.C.

I am sure my colleagues join me in giving Jose and Leonor hearty congratulations on

their 69th wedding anniversary. I commend them and wish them many more happy years together.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE FIFTY  
STATE COMMEMORATIVE COIN  
PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 8, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce a bill to give the District of Columbia and the four insular areas a privilege the 50 states achieved last year: to choose a design for the reverse side of the quarter coin in order to commemorate our history as part of the United States. This program was authorized in the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act, which passed overwhelmingly in the 105th Congress. However, the bill unintentionally excluded the District of Columbia and the four territories. My bill would correct that oversight by extending the 10-year commemorative coin program for an additional year to include the District of Columbia and the four insular areas—American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

I objected to the exclusion of D.C. and the four territories when the original bill came to the House floor. In order not to impede passage of an otherwise worthy bill, however, I deferred my protest. In turn, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, the former Chair of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, agreed to cosponsor my bill to allow the District and the four insular areas to participate. Although Mr. CASTLE no longer chairs the subcommittee, I want to thank him for his continued support. The new Chair, SPENCER BACHUS, has promised his full support and cooperation in helping with this effort, and he is an original cosponsor of the bill I reintroduce today. I also want to thank the Delegates from the four insular areas who have worked on this bill from the beginning.

Although the residents of the District and the insular areas are American citizens, there are some differences between us and the states. However, qualification to be part of a program to redesign quarters to commemorate Members' home districts is surely not one of them. There is no legal or constitutional reason to exclude D.C. and the territories from this bill. Congress should be at great pains to avoid any appearance of treating the District and the insular areas as colonies. The Commemorative Coin Program may seem like a minor activity, but the ability to participate in this program is an important recognition to my constituents.